

# Irish Civil Registration

Mckenna Cooper

[mckenna.cooper@familysearch.org](mailto:mckenna.cooper@familysearch.org)

## Timeline

- Pre-1845: church records were the official records of births, marriages, and deaths in Ireland
- 1845: non-Catholic marriages begin to be recorded by the government
- 1864: births, marriages, and deaths (regardless of religion) recorded in civil registration
- 1922: partition of Ireland; records begin to differ between Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland

## Information in civil registration records:

### Births

- Child's name, gender, birthdate
- Parents' names (including mother's maiden name)
- Father's occupation and place of residence
- Informant's signature, residence and qualification (often relationship to child)

### Marriages

- Marriage date, place, denomination (if it took place in a church)
- Names of bride and groom, ages (often "of full age" or "minor")
- Occupations, marital status, and residences of bride and groom
- Signatures of bride, groom, and witnesses
- After 1956 in Republic of Ireland:
  - Birthdates of bride and groom, full names of their parents
  - Future intended town or country of residence

### Deaths

- Death and place of death
- Name, occupation, age, marital status of deceased person
- Cause of death, duration of illness
- Sometimes spouse's name for married or widowed women
- Child's occupation often given as son or daughter of their parent
- Northern counties: father's name of unmarried females
- After 1975 in Northern Ireland:
  - Birthdate of deceased and place of birth
- After December 2005 in Republic of Ireland:
  - Birthdate of deceased and parents' full names

## Information you need to know before searching civil records:

- Name of the person of interest
- Approximate date of event
- Place of event (more specific the better)
  - At least the civil registration district/poor law union (they are the same)
  - Best case scenario: townland, civil parish, poor law union. The townland can help you differentiate between people with the same name since they were very small areas.
  - How to find the poor law union/civil registration district:
    - <https://www.johngrenham.com/places/> gives townland, county, civil parish, poor law union, and registrar's district (not the same as civil registration district)
    - [www.thecore.com/seanruad](http://www.thecore.com/seanruad) gives townland, county, barony, parish, poor law union (PLU), and province
- Any other identifying information from other records, such as an occupation, relationships (i.e. parents, spouse) that can help you narrow down the results.

## How to Access Civil Registration Records

<b>FamilySearch</b> <a href="https://familysearch.org">https://familysearch.org</a>	<b>IrishGenealogy</b> <a href="https://Irishgenealogy.ie">https://Irishgenealogy.ie</a>	<b>GRONI (\$)</b> <a href="https://geni.nidirect.gov.uk/">https://geni.nidirect.gov.uk/</a>
<i>Ireland Civil Registration Indexes, 1845–1958</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Also on Findmypast and Ancestry, same index, no images</li> <li>• Does not include Northern Ireland after 1922</li> </ul> <i>Ireland Civil Registration, 1845–1913 (with images)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Births 1864–1881, 1900–1913</li> <li>• Marriages 1845–1870</li> <li>• Deaths 1864–1870</li> </ul>	Republic of Ireland  Index and images for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Births 1864–1919 (over 100 years old)</li> <li>• Marriages 1845–1944 (over 75 years old)</li> <li>• Deaths 1864–1969 (over 50 years old)</li> </ul> Images for deaths 1864–1871 are not yet online, currently being added	Northern Ireland  Index and images for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Births over 100 years old</li> <li>• Marriages over 75 years old</li> <li>• Deaths over 50 years old</li> </ul> Searching the indexes costs credits as well as viewing digitized records. You can also order certificates on this website.
<b>Family History Library microfilms (not online)</b>  Births, marriages, deaths from 1922–1959 for Northern Ireland  Births 1944–1955 for Republic of Ireland	<b>Other websites with civil registration indexes (no images):</b> <a href="http://www.ancestry.com">www.ancestry.com</a> (\$), <a href="http://www.findmypast.com">www.findmypast.com</a> (\$), <a href="http://www.rootsireland.ie/">www.rootsireland.ie/</a> (\$) (RootsIreland's transcripts taken from original books, not GRO copies like the other websites)	